

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1253**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Coto**

February 22, 2005

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An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to public education.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1253, as amended, Coto. Pupils: graduation requirements.

*Under existing law, except as specified, a pupil may not receive a diploma of graduation from high school if that pupil, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed specified academic requirements.*

This bill, commencing with the 2008–09 school year, would increase the number of courses a pupil is required to complete to receive a diploma of graduation from high school by requiring an additional ~~year~~ *one-year* course in English and *in* mathematics, ~~2-year~~ *one-year* courses in a language other than English, a ~~year~~ *one-year* course in visual and performing arts, and a ~~year~~ *one-year* course in specified elective subjects, unless a pupil is exempted upon petition by the pupil and his or her parent or legal guardian. The bill would also require the governing board of a school district, with the active involvement of parents or guardians, administrators, teachers, and pupils, to adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study to be required for graduation, as specified, and would require the governing board to make available to pupils and parents or guardians information regarding requirements for graduation and specified alternative means for completing the

prescribed course of study. These requirements would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact  
2     legislation to ensure that all high school graduates are prepared  
3     for entrance to postsecondary educational institutions, or to the  
4     workforce, or both. It is also the intent of the Legislature to  
5     require that all pupils in high school be afforded an opportunity  
6     to take a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, and that pupils  
7     be allowed to opt not to take this college preparatory curriculum,  
8     and to pursue an alternative rigorous sequence of courses aimed  
9     at opportunities in ~~vocational careers and career technical~~  
10    education at the California Community Colleges, only upon  
11    parent and pupil petition.

12    (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to authorize pupils and  
13    their parents or legal guardians ~~who petition the school board to~~  
14    ~~opt not to take the college preparatory curriculum required for~~  
15    ~~graduation to adopt a course of study that includes practical~~  
16    ~~demonstration of skills and experience, career technical~~  
17    ~~education~~ *to petition the school to opt not to take the college*  
18    ~~preparatory curriculum, but instead to participate in other~~  
19    ~~courses of study, including technical education graduation paths,~~  
20    offered by the high school or by a regional occupational center or  
21    program, a supervised work experience program,  
22    interdisciplinary studies, independent study, or credit earned at a  
23    postsecondary institution. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
24    require that requirements for graduation, and specified alternative  
25    modes for completing the prescribed courses of study, be made

1 available to pupils, to their parents or legal guardians, and to the  
2 public.

3 *(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that schools provide*  
4 *intervention programs or strategies, or both, for pupils who are*  
5 *not experiencing success in the college preparatory curriculum.*

6 SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to  
7 read:

8 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall not receive a diploma of  
9 graduation from high school ~~who~~, *unless that pupil*, while in  
10 grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has ~~not~~ completed all of the following:

11 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
12 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
13 otherwise specified:

14 (A) Three courses in English.

15 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

16 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
17 sciences.

18 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
19 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
20 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
21 one-semester course in economics.

22 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign  
23 language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement  
24 specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign  
25 Language is a course in a foreign language.

26 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has  
27 been exempted pursuant to provisions of this code.

28 (2) Other coursework that the governing board of the school  
29 district may by rule specify.

30 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of  
31 parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt  
32 alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of  
33 study which may include practical demonstration of skills and  
34 competencies, supervised work experience or other outside  
35 school experience, career technical education classes offered in  
36 high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or  
37 programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit  
38 earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for  
39 graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the

1 prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils,  
2 parents, and the public.

3 (c) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2008, and,  
4 as of January 1, 2009, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute  
5 that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or extends the  
6 dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

7 SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to  
8 read:

9 51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 2008–09 school year and  
10 except as provided in subdivision (b), a pupil shall not receive a  
11 diploma of graduation from high school if he or she has not  
12 completed, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, the following  
13 college preparatory curriculum that is required for admission to  
14 the California State University or the University of California:

15 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
16 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
17 otherwise specified:

18 (A) Four courses in English.

19 (B) Three courses in mathematics. Four courses are  
20 recommended. At a minimum, courses shall include topics  
21 contained in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and  
22 three-dimensional geometry.

23 (C) Two courses in science, including biology, chemistry, or  
24 physics. Three courses are recommended.

25 (D) Two courses in social studies, including a year course in  
26 United States history and geography; a year course in world  
27 history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in  
28 American government and civics; and a one-semester course in  
29 economics.

30 (E) One course in visual and performing arts.

31 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has  
32 been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

33 (G) Two courses in the same foreign language.

34 (H) One elective course in any of the following areas:

35 (i) Visual and performing arts.

36 (ii) History.

37 (iii) Social science.

38 (iv) English.

39 (v) Advanced mathematics.

40 (vi) Laboratory science.

1 (vii) A language other than English.

2 (2) Other coursework that the governing board of the school  
3 district may, by rule, specify.

4 (b) A pupil and his or her parent or guardian may petition a  
5 school counselor or administrator to exempt the pupil from the  
6 requirements of subdivision (a). ~~If granted, the exemption would~~  
7 *a school counselor or an administrator grants the exemption, the*  
8 *petition shall be kept on file at the school, and the exemption*  
9 *shall* authorize the pupil to receive a diploma of graduation from  
10 high school by completing the minimum requirements specified  
11 in this subdivision. The pupil and his or her parent or guardian  
12 shall be informed that the completion of the minimum  
13 requirements specified in this subdivision does not preclude the  
14 pupil from enrolling in a community college upon graduation,  
15 but may not prepare the pupil to meet the requirements for  
16 admission to the California State University or the University of  
17 California:

18 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
19 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
20 otherwise specified:

21 (A) Three courses in English.

22 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

23 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
24 sciences.

25 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
26 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
27 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
28 one-semester course in economics.

29 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign  
30 language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement  
31 specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign  
32 Language is a course in a foreign language.

33 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has  
34 been exempted pursuant to provisions of this code.

35 (2) Other coursework that the governing board of the school  
36 district may, by rule, specify.

37 (c) The governing board, with the active involvement of  
38 parents or guardians, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall  
39 adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed  
40 course of study to be required for graduation, which may include

1 practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised  
2 work experience or other outside school experience, vocational  
3 education classes offered in a high school, courses offered by a  
4 regional occupational center or program, interdisciplinary study,  
5 independent study, or credit earned at a postsecondary institution.  
6 Information regarding requirements for graduation and specified  
7 alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study  
8 shall be made available by the governing board to pupils, parents,  
9 and the public.

10 (d) For purposes of this section, “year” means school year.

11 (e) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2008.

12 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
13 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
14 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
15 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
16 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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19 **CORRECTIONS:**

20 **Digest — Line 9.**

21 **Text — Pages 2 and 4.**